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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1902.

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTION.

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ONE of the cardinal difficulties which must, I take it, be met speedily by the administrators of the Carnegie Fund (and the present discussion may aid in showing what some of the difficulties are) is the problem how to divide its benefits fairly. For, according to the deed of the benefactor, the purpose of the gift is evidently to stimulate science in its widest acceptance, in all of its branches, applied, no less than theoretical. And to expend its goodly income on lines which will be in fullest keeping with the trust is by no means an easy task. Its trustees are bound to distribute its benefits fairly, but they may well be puzzled by the number and kinds of questions which require a practical answer. They have thus immediate opportunities for investment, which are legitimate, attractive, and which may never befall them again—e. g., the acquisition of the Woods Hole station. They have also to deal with the importunate and well-deserving (colleges, societies, experimental stations, journals and individuals), some of whom, I fancy, are aggrieved at not having already received an annual sop from the Carnegie funds.

As a matter of fact, however, the Institution, in spite of its ten millions of dollars, is yet too poor to yield the immediate and miraculous draught of scientific results